

Oatley Rugby Club 2011 Annual Report



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President's Report

Having completed my first year as President of the Oatley Rugby Club and I can genuinely say it has been enjoyable, frustrating and at times testing experience; however overall I would describe the experience as a rewarding one and I hope you all have enjoyed the 2011 season as well.

The 2011 season presented with many challenges across the club. In the minis the constant need of replenishing and enticing new participants and families to the club, as well as filling in the gaps and shortfalls in the various age groups, the changes to the rules for 6's and 7's, as well as the constant demands of working with a junior union unable to decide upon a suitable draw and sticking to it. I would like to thank Sandy Palmer for her efforts as our Mini's co-ordinator for organising the mini's side of the club; however for taking on the role of Southern Districts Mini's co-ordinator when no one else would and doing the best should she could to please as many as she could with minimal support from the Southern District Executive. The club and I look forward to having Sandy solely involved in Oatley Rugby next year. On a positive note it is great to see the constant influx of new kids and families to the club and I hope you all enjoyed your 1st rugby experience and I look forward to having you all back next year. In relation to the performances of the respective teams I will leave that to Sandy and the coaches.

The juniors really came alive in 2011 and the efforts of Richard Rice and his support crew must be congratulated. This year the club just fell short in fielding sides from the under 10 through to opens. The work to get a non-existent under 11's up and running was a great result and then to get the team to the grand final is a massive achievement and all involved are to be commended. The under 12's were struggling at the beginning of the year to the point of almost folding; however through the hard work of 2 of the executive Mick Waudby and Ross Williamson, this team grew and went onto play in the grand final just falling and the final hurdle. In 2011 we again sent a team, the under 14's on a New Zealand tour and well done to Jim and his band of volunteer who help raise funds to support this initiative. To win a premiership is a massive achievement and as the president of the club to, I would like to extend a huge congratulations to our successful premiership teams, the under 10's and Opens. The under 10's also went on also to take out the Canberra 7's, once again congratulation to Damien, Lee and the boys. As for the Opens, Alex Suter has been developing and nurturing this group of young men for a period of time and this year they took on the challenge of participating in the Saturday and Sunday competitions run by Sydney Juniors and won both, which is an achievement unlikely to ever be matched. Congratulation to Alex and his group of young men and for those who chooses to chase their rugby dream outside of the Oatley Rugby Club good luck and for those who are looking for a competitive and social game of rugby, remember you will always have a home at Oatley.

In the senior club we continue to pursue the dream of winning a Barraclough Cup and to Beachie and his team of merry men thank you for all your efforts. The executive decided along with several members of the senior playing group to implement a cultural change within the senior club. This wasn't going to be an easy task; however I'm please to say the wheels are well and truly in motion and we look to continue to drive this change in the 2012 season, in the hope of achieving silverware and a social environment that is engaging for players, their girlfriends, wives, families and supporters.



A club the size of Oatley Rugby doesn't operate without the support of Volunteers and Sponsors. I would like to thank all the Coaches and Manager who freely give up their time to coach and organised our rugby players, at times this can be a thankless task; however your efforts are greatly appreciated by all players, supporters, wives, parents and the executive. To our largest sponsor the Maso's I would like to extend a massive thank you to Stephen Romans and his board of Directors as well and Paul O'Connor, the General Manager and his support crew, in particularly Kerrie.

One of the biggest tasks faced each year by the committee is the running of the canteen. As the competitions we participate in evolve so does this role. This has gone from just a Saturday job to Sunday and is a massive task to co-ordinate and run. The club doesn't look to make a massive profit from our canteen, as we see it as more of a service we provide to our members, supporters and opposition clubs. On behalf of the executive and in particular myself I would like to thank my wife Sheridan Baratta for the effort she goes to, to ensure the canteen is stocked and operational every time Oatley takes the field at Evatt Park or opens the park for other organisation to use. Sheridan was assisted by many volunteers, in particular Emma Tunni and Anthony Scoon.

I would also like to thank all those who support the initiatives implement by the executive, these don't just happen, a lot of effort and work goes into getting these off the ground. So those volunteer to organise, donate prizes, or who just attend, march pasts, trivia nights, kid's discos, sports lunches and presentations, you are true supporters of the club and the executive and I would like to say thank you and we look forward to your continued support.

To the 2011 executive, Richard Rice – Junior Vice President, Beachie- Senior Vice President, Sandy Palmer – Minis Vice President, Ed Devlin – Secretary, Mick Bradley – Treasurer, Rod Dunn, Ross Bernays, Mick Waudby, Ross Williamson – General Members, thank you for your support and efforts throughout the 2011 season. I hope you all are involved again in 2012. If not thank you for your efforts and I look forward to seeing around the club.

Finally to my family, Sheridan, Kane and Zach your love, patients, support and understanding while I pursue a passion of mine is, greatly appreciated and cannot be measured and be assured will be paid back in full.

Thank you all again and I hope to see you all back in 2012.

Cheers
Justin Baratta
President





Under 6 Green

What a team of little super stars!!!!!!

The start of the season had all Oatley under 6's players training together. The players were split into three teams and coaches and managers selected. It was then that the MIGHTY UNDER 6 GREEN team was formed.....

Zac Baratta- The solid core player of the team, Highest try scorer for the season, even with weeks of with a broken arm. Outstanding in defence and Zac was a worthy recipient of the BEST AND FAIREST award.

Angus Montague- always wanting to get his hands on the ball. Angus has a never give up attitude and followed the flow of the game, a real natural. Angus will be missed next season as he has moved out of state.

Will Mood- One of the smallest players in size but his big heart and determination made him a stand out in his first season of rugby. Will showed speed and matched with that side step was just magical. Will scored his first try in his first match. Well done Will on receiving the COACHES AWARD.

Gabby Palmer- Gabby was always willing to put her hand up to help out the opposition because she would prefer to tag people that she knew. It was good to see even when Gabby was playing for Oatley she was still willing to tag her own team. When Gabby got the ball she ran straight and it paid off for her when she ran straight through the opposition to score.

Dylan Devoy-Paino- with a season already under his belt and one of the youngest players, Dylan really came out of his shell and a standout player in our Southern Districts Gala Day grand final.

Ryan Palmer- one of the most passionate and experienced players. Ryan received the MANAGERS AWARD this season. Not afraid to dive for the try in the corner which is how Ryan scored 90% of his tries. Ryan's palming and tackling will come in handy in future years.

Ethan Mottershead- Youngest player starting this season. Ethan listened and learnt a lot. Ethan's short career highlight was scoring against Engadine when he 'tricked' the opposition and scored in the corner. Ethan will enjoy next season a little older and rugby wiser.

Tommy McEvoy- Happiest player on the park. Tommy always played with a smile on his face. Tommy was consistent in defence never giving up chasing the opposition. Attack wise, Tommy sussed out where the opposing players were and did his best to avoid them and it paid off with a handful of tries for the season.

Nathan Taylor- Nathan was a standout from the start. No one got past him Nathan backed up to help the under 7's which is where he ended up playing.

A couple of highlights for the season would have to be playing before the Wallabies in their Test Match against Samoa and also the March Past both held at ANZ stadium.

Special thanks also to our Junior Oatley players, who refereed this season, Tom Rice, Oliver Herbert, Hunter Apatu and Phoenix Pennell.



Thanks to all parents that helped with coaching through the season, Coach Danny for the first half. Sandra Palmer and I took over coaching for a bit and Justin Baratta helped out at our Test Match game. Damien McEvoy put his hand up to coach the kids for the rest of the season but unfortunately work took Coach Damien away for last couple of weeks and we had Dylan's Dad Anthony step up. Coach Anthony led the players to a grand final win at the end of the season.

I wish the players the best of luck as they move on up into the under 7's and those players returning as under 6's I look forward to another fun, enjoyable season with you in 2012.

Meaghan Mottershead



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Under 9's Report

Another year and another successful rugby season for the boys.

The competition the boys faced from all teams increased, as they continue to recruit and improve their skills level, demonstrating to the boys you can't take any team lightly.

The boy's commitment and a passion on game day are unquestionable; however our next step is to start working more as a team. This will ensure the whole group moves forward and develops as rugby players. I look forward to continue my association with the boys next season as we move out of the minis into the junior division of the club. This will present some big challenges for the boys such as playing new teams, on a bigger field and also having to deal with different rules. I would like to thank Sandy for being the minis coordinator during the team's tenure in the minis.

All the boys developed really well and improved throughout the year. Congratulation go to the team major award winner, Nicholas – Most improved, Robbie –Best Defender, Elijah – Best Attacker and Big Matt – Kyle Bay Best and Fairest. A special congratulation to Kane, who took out the Mini's player of the year, a great achievement.

Finally I would like to thank Mike for his efforts in organise the boys and more importantly informing the parent of game day requirements, club promotions and rugby development days.

I look forward to take the boys through the next step of their rugby journey and hope you are all back next year.

Cheers

Justin

Coach Justin Baratta





Junior's Vice President Report

Firstly I would like to say what an enjoyable year I have had and what a successful year the club has had. WE managed to get 6 of our 8 junior teams into Grand Finals and went on to win 3 of those.

This is a slight contrast to the start of the year, we weren't sure how many teams would get up and running and then how successful we would be, but after some hard work by coaches managers and committee alike we got all the age groups across the line with the exception of the Under 15's. In acknowledging the hard work that goes on behind the scenes the first of a long list of thank you's must go to Sheridan Baratta and Luanna Pennell. Sheridan worked tirelessly to keep the canteen stocked and operating while Lu was our register doing a massive amount of work getting the kids registered and ready to play.

This brings me to the teams. I had the good fortune to watch all these teams play at different times in the season and live their highs and lows from afar.

Under 10's. Damian, Mike, Lee and Charles have crafted a wonderful rugby team. It is no surprise they won their grand final based on the structure and spirit with which they play the game. Not only did the boys win the Saturday Under 10's competition but also they recently took out the Canberra sevens. A great proportion of this team went on to earn representative honours this year. It will be a pleasure watching the progress through the various age groups in the coming years.

Under 11's. Well Done to Lance, Luanna and Marlon. The club was not sure we would get a team on the field in this age group, but not only was a team formed but they went all the way to the Grand Final in their first year. Congratulations must also go to Lance who took out the coach of the year award in a year where it could have gone one of 4 ways. These boys will grow into one of the most feared in their age group.

Under 12's. Mick and Ross put a hell of a lot of work pre-season into getting a team on the pitch. A touch and go start to the season and then a couple of wins and they were away. A great journey to a Grand Final only to lose out in the most heartbreaking of circumstances, a hell of a match played by a hell of a team. Hopefully they will be able to build on this year and gradually move through the divisions.

Under 13's. Chris did a great job in his first year as a Junior Coach. Enthusiastically helped by Vince Bottos, This group of boys slowly climbed through the grades only to go out in a heartbreaking semi-final. Great courage was shown by all and if they can get a couple of players in the off season the future is bright here.

Under 14's. Jim, Scott, Mark and Pierre followed up the great year they had last year with a brave defence of their title, they were unfortunate to fall short but I'm sure that will only spur them. This group enjoyed an end of season trip to NZ.

Under 16's. Rod and Ivan struggled through the year, hit by low numbers and injuries, when they managed to put a full complement on the field they played some very good open football and were enjoyable to watch. Hopefully as they move into the opens some success will come their way, they deserve it.



This brings me to an absolutely outstanding effort by Alex and his boys in the Opens. Not content with winning the A grade Saturday Comp they then backed up and won the A grade Sunday comp. I don't think this has ever happened before and I doubt it will happen for a long time to come. Great Effort All.

As you can see the future of the Junior club is bright and we must take the opportunity to build on this season. Next Years 13's and 14's will require numbers and some work, as will the opens. Work has started on next years 16's with a coach already applying for the role, so hopefully we will be able to field every age group next year. The club finances are in good shape and we are currently working with the committee to standardize kits and leisure wear, this will happen over the next couple of years capitalising on a strong brand, which in turn will allow the club to grow.

Over time the bridge between the senior and Junior portions of the club has started to close and we are in a position to advertise the club as ONE club. This will be good for advertising and the club in general in the coming years.

Anyway it has been a wonderful journey this year and one I hope you see fit to allow me to take again next year.

Yours in Rugby

Richard Rice

Juniors Vice-President.





2011 Junior Award Winners

Junior Player of the Year 2011	-	Jonathan Brown
Junior Clubman of the Year 2011	-	Gordon Pennell
Junior Goal Kicker of the Year 2011	-	Jacob Fetui
Junior Supporter of the Year 2011	-	Meaghan Mottershead
Coach of the Year 2011	-	Lancelot Tasipale
100 Games	-	Sam Tuni, Luka Mihaljevic
150 Games	-	Lionel Koro, Jonathan Brown
200 Games	-	Tuti Haimona
250 Games	-	Elijah Suter

2011 Team Honours

Under 10's - Premiers

Opens won both Saturday and Sunday competitions.





2011 Oatley Representative Players

Played for Southern Districts in State Championships

June 2011

Under 10's

Justin Cordi
Sebastian Herbert
John Ioane
Siagoa Kepu
Harrison Knapton
Patrick Kossenberg
Isaac Masima
Conor Molloy
Darcy Mullins
Sidney Noppen
Quinn O'Connor
Curtis Palmer
Lucas Purser
Steven Schocher
Trevor Taufu

Under 11's

Ethan Peter Faetete Saisoa'a
Adam Somboli



Under 12's

Riley O'Connor
Connor Ryan
Ethan Waudby

Under 14's

Delane Cherrington
Etienne Couret
Bailey Lang
Benjamin Percic
Tony Rumore
Robert Siteine
Dane Stephens
Hoaping (Ping) Tang
Jake Gallagher



Under 17's (Opens)

Johno Brown
Damon Browne
Danny Lewis
Te wauku Field
Matagi Sa'u
Leon Koro
Donald Light
Steve Britton
Tuti Haimona
Jack Keppel
Daniel Szabo
Taylor Allen
Cyril Sawaki
Jarrome Raru
Kevin Weeks
Marcus Marae
Elijah Suter
Mitchell Wickham

Under 16's

Khaled Alfas
Timothy Dunn
Ryan Mackay
Mathew Murray
Emelio Pupualii
Corey Taylor
Dylan Turner-Williams

Under 13's

Veilo Jacob Fetui

55 Players



Under 10's Report

Oatley Under 10's had a magnificent season of achievement in 2011, winning the Saturday comp and Canberra Seven's titles. Further, they had 16 players make the Southern Districts Under 10's development squad for the State Championships. Oatley remained undefeated until the second half of the season and everyone associated with this team knew that if we played our best rugby the boy's would win the comp. Despite a couple of hiccups in the run into the semis that is exactly what the boys did.

After finishing second in the regular season we lost the major semi to Coogee Grey (the minor premiers) in a very close contest. That meant we had lost twice to Coogee Grey in the second half of the season, after beating them soundly earlier in the year. Those losses were important for us – they taught us that unless we worked hard on the field, gave of our best and executed our plans as a team that we were vulnerable. Those defeats helped us to focus on our team game and made victory all the sweeter. If you never lose then you can never fully appreciate the victories. All season we impressed upon the boys that the way a team plays as a whole determines its success. We knew we had a bunch of individual stars pulling on the Oatley jersey each week, but if they didn't play together, we would not achieve our potential. Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships. From that semi final loss, through to winning the Saturday comp and the Canberra Seven's, these boys played beautiful team rugby to sweep all before them.

Oatley were very impressive in the preliminary final – they ran, rucked and tackled their way to an emphatic win over a gallant Clovelly White team to make it into the grand final at Concord. Our game plan in the grand final was simple but very effective. Before the match we told the boys that we believed we would win and win well. We said our forwards would win the game for us, even though it would probably be our backs that scored most of the tries. Confidence comes from being prepared, and we knew we had the team and done all the hard work necessary to be victorious. The boys reflected on how far they had come, how hard they had trained, and how very close they had become as a team of mates, and they were very confident they would do the job. After going down 7-0 early in the grand final Oatley were irrepressible and unstoppable, scoring 5 unanswered tries to run out deserved winners 31-7. We dominated at the breakdown, winning most ball contests and starving Coogee of the ball. Our relentless pick and drive punched holes up the middle and sucked Coogee's fast boys in from the flanks to try and plug the gaps. This freed up space for our backline to sizzle, and Coogee had no answer. The forwards were awesome and our backs were electric. It was a true team game and made all the coaches, parents and friends of this team very proud!

The grand final win over Coogee meant that these boys (who had almost been unbeatable in Southern Districts Mini's for the previous four years) had now beaten the best of the Eastern Suburbs. We look forward to next year's 11's because the plan is to have a graded competition across all of Sydney, including the best of the North and West. An indication of how we will fare next year in this expanded comp came during the Canberra Seven's in mid September. The two grand finalists of the Northern Sydney Saturday comp (Lindfield and Harbord) played this season ending tournament, as well as the best teams from the A.C.T. Oatley took 12 boys down and won all seven games whilst conceding just two tries to take out the day. In the final we dominated a very confident Lindfield team, winning 35-0. A parent from the Clovelly side that we beat in Canberra said it best - "Oatley are like a tidal wave - there's just no stopping them. Whenever you bring down a player there are two or three others there ready to take his place."



What a great way to end what has been a fantastic season for this fine group of young men. Every single boy in this team developed strongly this season and was a much better player at the end of the season than at the start. Our tackling, our rucking, our teamwork and our attitude all improved markedly. There was no issue with the team's attitude at the start of the season, but without doubt they learnt that there are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure. Attitude determines altitude, and Oatley Under 10's have soared high in 2011.

To the boys,

2011 has been a massive step forward in the your development as rugby players, as a team and as young men. Thanks for working with your coaches and parents and for trying to become the best you can be. You will keep the memories of this season with you forever. All those sand hills, the fitness sessions around Gannon's and road runs when our fields were closed, the extra training for reps, all those freezing nights at Evatt- they all helped and gave you the right to call yourselves champions. You have set high standards for next season, and we can't wait for it to start!

To the parents,

It has been an absolute pleasure to coach your son this year. Thanks for your enthusiasm and support. An extra big thank you to those that helped out with training, served as assistant referees, ran the water, set up the field, helped out at Bunning's and with the canteen – the club doesn't function without your assistance. The coaching is always easier when the kids are well behaved. Each and every boy was a delight to coach and for that we want to say thanks.

To Richard Rice, Justin Baratta and the Oatley Rugby Club volunteers,

Thanks for all your hard work to make this season such a great success. We look forward to doing it all with you again next year.

We look forward to seeing you all back in 2012.

Sincerely,

Damian Mullins, Lee Knapton, Charles Palmer and Mike Kossenber.





Premiers 2011 (SJRU Under 10's Gold)

From a penalty on our own 22m line, Sebastian took the tap and ran straight into the Coogee pack. By that stage they were a beaten team and Seb cut through the Coogee forwards like a hot knife through butter before running 80m to score under the posts. This celebration was just after he put the ball down, as the boys knew they had won the Grand Final. Darcy converted and Oatley won the Grand Final 31-7.

Champions 2011

Canberra Seven's Under 10's

Following their emphatic victory in the Sydney Saturday competition, the Oatley Under 10's travelled to Canberra to play in the season ending Canberra Seven's tournament. The boys were once again unstoppable, conceding just two tries in 7 games and winning the final against Lindfield 35-0.





Under 11's Report

Well, Well, Well,

First of all, I would like to Thank all of our parents for being patient and supportive. This made the year enjoyable and worth while. The coach of the year award would not have been possible without your support so the award is a reflection on our group as a whole, so great work Team!

Who would've thought that our team would make it to the Grand Final!!!!

In the beginning, Our season already looked bleak with only 5 players attending the first few weeks of training.

Well suffice to say that a few more weeks and a strong recruiting drive from our parents we managed to get a ragtag team together.

Our first game was against Lindfield Bucks and we only managed to get a team of 9. We ended up winning convincingly but had to forfeit as a result of not having 10 players. From here we went on to win most of our games the hard way. We were even graded up a division. not bad for a first year team.

We were heavily penalized at these initial games with silly "hand in the ruck" and "not going through the gate" penalties and I was starting to get used to the Ref blowing the Pea out of the whistle... With a few more training sessions and help from the Dad's Doug and Scott, The team began to understand a few more of the finer points of the game. So Thanks Guys.

Just getting to the Grand Final was a massive feat in itself. Many teams can go their whole playing life and not even make it to the final series so you should be all proud of getting to the grand final. The result was not favourable but at least we know that you can beat the Tigers so there's something to look forward to next year!

A special mention to Ben and Moses who missed out on playing the finals because they didn't play enough games, Only a mere 1 match of all things. Hope the boys return next year.

A big thank-you to my trainer Marlon who has added a wealth of training tips and insights to the team Psychological make-up. Thanks for also running the water.

More thanks to the other Dads that helped out at training, Mark, Steve, Gordon, Ben and Mick. It made coaching the boys a whole lot easier and enjoyable. I will be needing help next year as well.

Thanks to the Mums that also helped in the canteen, Lianne, Kari, Mary, Julie and the rest.

Last but not least- A Big thank-you to Luana (Gordo's Girl) for managing the team this year. It's been an awesome year!

My humblest apologies if I have forgotten to thank anyone else but you know who you are so a very Big Thank-you!

Come on 2012!

Coach- Lancelot Tasipale



The Team

Cooper Cheney- Best and Fairest

Great in defense and equally as good in offense. Quick recycling of the ball enabled our side quality attacking plays. Listened to instructions. Played 12 games 1 try 4 conversions & 4 Missed Conversions

Ray Crichton- Best Back

Left a trail of defenders in your wake- Solid in defense as well. One of the players to watch out for in the future. Played 12 games 19 tries 1 conversion & 4 missed conversions

Joe loane- Forward of the year

What can I say! Awesome year. One of the standout players this year. Attacked with gusto and defended like a warrior. Looking forward to next season. Played 13 games 8 tries 2 Con & 1 Missed con

Eisa Tasipale- Coaches Award

Solid year at Fly half- Ran passed and kicked the ball well. Not bad for your first full season. Looking forward to another great year. Played 13 games 3 tries & 4 Missed Con

Ethan Saisoa'a

Had a great season at fullback. Attacked with gusto and always pulled off the last defense tackle. Missed a few games with a broken finger AAAAHHHHHH!!!! Looking forward to another season. 8 games 5 tries 1 Missed Con

Ethan Fa'amausili

Had a great Game this year. Looking forward to you playing another great game next year. Maybe a few more...1 game this season due to Sunday School responsibilities.

Adam Somboli

Played well in the forwards this year. Showed the pack the art of stealing the ball and running with heart. Always putting his body on the line which resulted in a few injuries this season and hence missing a few games. With a bit more speed, who knows maybe the backline beckons. 12 games 5 tries & 4 Missed Con

Max Poulter

Showed a lot of patience and support play out on the blind side which eventuated in a few tries and try savers. When you realize how fast you really are then that's when special things will start to happen. Great year and see you soon. 13 games 6 tries & 1 Missed Con

Kurt Chalker

Played solidly in the forwards. One of the few tenacious players I'm glad to be on our side. His continuous hard work frustrated the other sides to no end. Scored some good tries and improved his conversions. 12 games 3 tries 3 con & 4 missed con

Jarred Christall

When he had ball in hand, made some good meters. With more confidence and more game time I can see him becoming one of the team's go to guy. Unleash the Mongre! 10 games 1 missed con



Lytana King-Togia

Had a solid season. With more game time he will improve greatly. Scored some impressive tries. Great Work. 9games 1try 1miss con

Lythaniel King-Togia

When you fully realize your potential, it will all click into place. You have the ability to become a great player. I know this. Back yourself -you have nothing to lose. 9games 3tries 3miss con

Jeremy Marschall

For a first time player you showed signs of becoming an awesome player. Heart of a lion! This was shown at the grand final when you almost chased down the intercept. Great tenacity! 6games 1try

Benjamin Ukarangi

First time player. Not scared to tackle and also not bad with ball in hand. Missed the grand final due to not playing enough games- 1 to be exact. Looking forward to next season. 4games

Moses Pope

First time player. Great runner with ball in hand. Used a few players as speed humps. Just got the hang of the game at the end of the season. . Missed the grand final due to not playing enough games- 1 to be exact. Looking forward to next season. 4games

Phabeyn Pennell

Has the ability to be a great player. When he brought his A game he was hard to stop! His team needs him to step up next season which I know he will. See you next year. 13games 1try 3cons & 5 Missed conversions.

JETM Design

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Under 12's Report

This was one of my most satisfying years as a coach. What I hoped to achieve in 2011, I think we succeeded in achieving those expectations. The boys started playing as a team and organised themselves on the paddock.

This year we went to the graded competition playing Sundays. It was a big change from playing on the traditional Saturdays, but all the parents agreed that "it had to happen". We started in E division and it soon became evident after a massive 85 to 0 win over Wahroonga A we needed to go up to D grade. The next week we were in D grade and had a 27 point draw with Hunter Hill then the next week came up against our Grand Final opposition and lost 7 to 27. From there we won all the games until the GF.

As I said in 2010, this team could become a force in years to come and it has only taken one season to achieve this.

A few stats...

We went through the season with only 1 draw and 2 losses going down to North Rocks/Ryde 21 to 17 in the Grand Final starting the game with 15 men. What a great game it was.

Point for 371 against 179. Total tries 65 and 23 Goals. Congratulations to Sam Tuni for reaching 100 games. Next season we will see a few others reaching this great milestone.

To all the parents, a big thanks you for all your efforts. I received many emails in support and telling me how much their boy enjoyed playing not only rugby, but for Oatley in 2011. A big thanks to Peter O'Connor, for helping at training and running the water each week. Damien for his assistant refs work and the other dads who helped out during the year. Let's not forget the mums for brining the boys to training and game days and washing the Jerseys. A big thank you.

A huge thanks to Ross. Your commitment to the U12's was brilliant and your calmness at games and training is an asset to us all. Helping me with training, running the line, taking the boys to the games and of course the Managers role, those emails.... great. Ross did a huge amount of work not only for the U12's but for Oatley in general. With all that work he also somehow finds time to Ref senior games and run touch lines as well. Thanks for all your help Ross.

Congratulations to Riley O'Connor, Connor Ryan and Ethan Waudby for being selected for the Southern Districts Rep squad in 2011. The way they conducted themselves at training and game days representing Oatley is a credit to each of you.

Thanks to the Under 11's who filled in for us on a few occasions and a special mention to Darcy Mullins (4 games) and Quinn O'Connor (5 games) from the Under 10's for helping us throughout the year. Thanks boys, and I hoped you like playing with your brothers.

To all the Under 12's boys, thanks for your efforts in 2011, you all showed commitment and character above your age as was show in not only the GF but in all games. It was a huge effort being in 5th position prior to the semis and going through and making the Grand Final. I'm very proud to have coached you boys in 2011.



Finally, is very sad to see Hunter and the Apatu family leave us. We will certainly miss Hunter's smiling face and mateship. To Maria and Jonty, thanks for all the help and support you given me, the other parents and team over the years, you both have been wonderful and we'll all miss you very much. All the best for the future and have a safe and trouble free trip home.

Congratulations to the award winners in 2011. Each year it's a very tough decision and this year was no different. Well done.

Best Forward	Oliver Milgate
Best Back	Joa Suter
Coaches Award	Jackson Fearn
Best and Fairest	Riley O'Connor

The Team

Hunter Apatu – Hunter is the silent assassin, going about his job quietly. He has the aggression to go hard but we're still looking for the on button.

Liam Byrne – Liam had a good year at No. 10. Looked like he enjoyed the position and was great to coach.

Andrew Clark – Andrew again still showed what a talent he is with the ball and also in defence. Would like to have him for the whole year. Thanks Andrew.

Dion Evans-Ao – Dion turned up to training one night early and the next Saturday broke his collar bone playing the other code. Dion is an asset to the backs with some great defence. Thanks Dion.

Jackson Fearn – Jackson had a great year getting the Coaches Award. Jackson was great to have around and always listened to instructions, and played really well also.

Lachlan Fitch – Playing on a Sunday made it hard for Lachlan to get to games, but whenever you want to come and have a run with Oatley, you are always welcome. A great Rugby player.

Phoenix Mankelow-Pennell – Phoenix started the season in the back row and ended up on the wing. Didn't matter as Phoenix plays well in any position. A great runner and can steal a ball.

Mitchell Maude – Mitchell returned this year and had a fantastic season. His size is an asset to the team and runs the ball hard. Probably improved the most. Well done Mitch.

Oliver Milgate – Oliver had another great year winning the Best Forward award. A great prop with good technique. Well done Oliver on a great year.

Daniel Morris – Daniel is a terrier, runs hard and tackles hard, sometimes getting hurt in the process. He loves the game and is always full of enthusiasm.

Angus Mullins – Angus, another terrier at halfback, always putting pressure on the opposition. A great communicator. Thanks for a great year Angus.

Riley O'Connor – The AXE. Riley goes all day and always gives 100%. Riley had a fantastic year taking out the Best and Fairest award. Well done Riley on a great year.

Oatley Rugby Annual Report 2011



Connor Ryan – The Captain. Connor had a great year leading the team. Connor always plays hard and never gives up. Thanks for your support Connor. Was close to getting an award.

Joa Suter – Probably my best decision all year was to move Joa from Centre to the Lock position. Joa loves playing in the forwards and is well suited there with strong runs and great defence. Well done Joa.

Samuel Tuni – Sam reached 100 games this year, and did a great job on the field. Well done Sam on a great year.

Ethan Waudby – Ethan is a solid No. 8. Had a good year doing the tight work around the rucks. A hard runner but needs to find a bit of aggression. Great to train. Thanks Ethan.

Michael West – Mickey only played a few games this year and is tireless around the field.

Riley Williamson – Riley has one of the biggest tickers around. I'm sometimes afraid to put him on the field as he gets hurt but he keeps going and surprises me with his toughness. Thanks and well done Riley.

Remember, be proud to play for Oatley rugby.

Coach: Mick Waudby

Manager: Ross Williamson

Name	Total Tries	Total Goals	Total games	Total	Total	Total
	2011	2011	2011	Club	Club	Club
	TRIES	GOALS	GAMES	TRIES	GOALS	GAMES
Hunter Apatu	1	0	15 *	1	0	40
Liam Byrne	4	10	13	4	10	22
Andrew Clark	15	1	8	340	98	97
Dion Evans-Ao	0	0	7 *	0	0	7
Jackson Fearnis	4	1	14	4	1	14
Lachlan Fitch	0	0	4	45	6	50
Phoenix Mankelow-Pennell	18	6	18 *	47	10	56
Mitchell Maude	0	0	15 *	5	9	38
Oliver Milgate	0	0	14	0	0	26
Daniel Morris	2	0	8	14	8	53
Angus Mullins	0	0	11	11	19	86
Riley O'Connor	3	0	15 #	20	8	89
Connor Ryan	5	5	15 #	9	5	40
Joaquin Suter	4	0	12	26	6	64
Samuel Tuni	1	0	18 *	22	6	115
Ethan Waudby	4	0	16 #	12	6	80
Michael West	1	0	3	1	0	13
Riley Williamson	0	0	12	2	10	93
* Includes games for the U13's						
# Includes games for Southern Districts						



Under 12's 2011 Grand Final Day

Riley O, Hunter, Mick, Mitch, Joa, Dion, Ross
Riley W, Liam, Jackson, Ethan, Connor, Oliver, Daniel
Angus, Sam

Missing: Andrew Clark, Lachlan Fitch, Mikey West





Under 13's

At the start of the year it was looking like it was going to be a tough season. There was uncertainty about which competition we would be playing in and what day we would be playing on. Also, we were short a few players especially in the front row.

The first few games that we played we struggled to get enough numbers there and we had to forfeit. Even when we played these teams in friendly matches with short numbers we were real competitors.

Throughout the entire season we struggled to get a full side and reserve bench, turning up to most games with 14 or 15 players, but even with this disadvantage the boys were really mentally strong and would end up putting big scores on teams. Through some good rugby and some good luck, being moved up grades, the boys managed to win most of our games in the second half of the season and made the semis which I am still very proud of.

A great example of how tough the team was shown in the semi-finals. We showed up expecting to have the bare minimum of 12 players to play, but when one boy didn't show up we were down to 11. With the boys commitment to the team and help from one of our injured players who stood on the try line all the game we took the field technically playing with 11 boys and at time 10 with other injuries happening in the game. Even with this we put a number of tries on them only to be beaten by one score.

The season really finished on a bit of a harsh note for the boys some of them not understanding how incredible the effort they had put in throughout the season and in this last game was. If we had of been able to gain a few extra players the season may have gone very differently, nevertheless I would not have traded any of the players in the team, or changed how we performed in the season.

If this group of players stay together next year and show commitment to training and each other they will definitely have a chance of winning whatever competition they play in. In one season the team the team has improved in leaps and bounds and will be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

Chris Bernays





Under 14's

The dust has now settled after another fantastic season of rugby for the U14s team. We had a number of players returning after a year or two break; Alturo, Ewan, and Dominic with new players Antonio, Josh, Ping, Rhys and Jake making the side at various stages during the year to bolster the team. Though it was disappointing to see Antonio have to move Queensland the week before the finals.

Our old boys continue to be the foundation stone of a very formidable team; Nicholas, Alex, Jonathon, Dane, Sydney, Benet, Tony, Etienne, Thomas, Drew, Ambrose, Robert, Delane, Bailey, Ben, Mitchell, Caleb, Blade, Luc and Jason. Unfortunately a few serious injuries keep some other long standing players of Jackson and Gabriel on the sideline all year and we lost Luc mid way through, breaking his arm.

We had a bit of a roller coaster of results during the season due lack of player continuity effecting team form, with boys unfortunately unavailable due to clashes with school commitments and of course our usual share of bad weather forcing the abandonment of games just when we were starting to get momentum. However, we managed to find some consistent form as the season was drawing to a close and played very well through the final series. We couldn't seem to keep that level up on the day of the Grand Final though, losing to a much more committed team on the day.

Team awards as usual are very difficult decisions with so many deserving players. Congratulations to our award winners this year:

Ben Percic – Best Forward
Delane Cherrington – Best Back
Dane Stephens – Coaches Award
Robert Siteine – Best & Fairest (Players' Player Award)

We have been fortunate enough to have more than our fair share of talented boys selected in the Southern Districts U14s Rep side. Their talent is only matched by their strong determination and desire to succeed. Congratulations go to:

Dane Stephens
Tony Rumore
Bailey Lang
Ben Percic
Delane Cherrington
Robert Siteine
Etienne Couret
Hoaping (Ping) Tang
Jake Gallagher

Some of these guys honoured themselves and the Oatley Rugby club further by taking out the following major awards for the Southern Districts Club:

Tony Rumore – Best Forward
Robert Siteine – Best Back
Jake Gallagher – Southern Districts Rep Player of the Year

Well done guys!

Oatley Rugby Annual Report 2011



On writing this report, we have just returned from our very successful NZ tour where most of the boys and dads and a couple of mums were able to go and take in some World Cup Rugby, take on some local Kiwis in our own world cup matches and take in lots of other fun activities (rafting, kart racing, sledding, zorbing, cruising, quad biking, etc.) while taking in the sites of the north island. The boys had an excellent time (although I'm sure they missed their Mums). And we're still trying to get the smile off Uzi's face.

A big thanks to the Oatley Rugby committee. A great bunch of volunteers. Without them the club would not be able to keep running and successfully as it does. A special thank you to Richard Rice for his tremendous support for our team throughout the year and all the Oatley Rugby club members who helped our fund raising efforts to entertain and feed the boys in NZ.

Thank you again Mark, Pierre and Scott for being an integral part of the coaching management team and to each of the parents for their support of our efforts with the boys to make them the success they are.

Cheers, ... Jim

Coach Jim Sherman



Under 14's 2011 Grand Final Day



U14's Stats

Name	Surname	Total Tries	Total Goals	Total games	Total	Total	Total
		2011	2011	2011	Club	Club	Club
		TRIES	GOALS	GAMES	TRIES	GOALS	GAMES
Nicholas	Bennett	1	0	13	12	13	122
Delane	Cherrington	3	3	10	25	3	26
Thomas	Clark	0	0	8	12	0	63
Etienne	Couret	4	0	10	23	1	52
Drew	Denford	0	20	6	0	39	16
Alturo	Fa'amausili	1	0	10	1	0	10
Jackson	Ford	0	0	1	0	0	50
Luc	Harries	0	0	3	0	0	25
Benet	James	0	0	7	2	0	51
Bailey	Lang	11	13	12	20	13	19
Jason	Large	0	0	9	0	0	24
Josh	Lauth	0	0	10	0	0	10
Antonio	Leofo	2	0	11	2	0	11
Sydney	Malifa	3	0	12	11	0	73
Ambrose	Milgate	1	0	13	3	0	40
Ben	Percic	0	0	11	1	0	25
Caleb	Pretorius	0	0	6	1	0	18
Tony	Rumore	4	0	7	29	22	72
Jonathon	Ryan	4	0	9	102	17	117
Dominic	Shade	2	0	9	2	0	9
Alex	Sherman	1	0	12	59	18	134
Robert	Siteine	5	3	11	10	3	24
Dane	Stephens	2	1	12	37	5	97
Blade Dancer	Tau	0	0	9	0	0	15
Darcy	Whitfeld	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mitchell	York	0	0	10	1	0	23
Rhys	McWhinney	0	0	6	0	0	6
Jake	Gallagher	13	2	6	13	2	6
Haoping	Tang	3	1	6	3	1	6



Under 16's

The under 16's began the season with high hopes with a full quota of players showing interest in playing for Oatley. Our first game saw us at Cliff oval in Wahroonga, managing to field a 15 man team. We dominated the play and headed for our first win of the season. Unfortunately by the end of 2011 we added another win to that tally, with a majority of the remaining games ending in loses and a few in forfeits. Adding to our woes was a dubious draw providing us with a tour of the north eastern Sydney Basin. Within the first weeks we were also plagued with injuries including broken wrists, arms and ankles none of which were ever minor, and we soon found it difficult to fill jerseys and on three occasions were forced to forfeit.

Notwithstanding these set-backs the boys showed enduring character to come back week in and week out to play in what seemed to be 13 man squad. Rarely did we have a full team of 15 and when blessed with reserves the games were extremely close. We were aided by two or three additional players throughout the season however commitment was never guaranteed. A special thanks goes to Andrew Haria, Ryan Mackay, Matthew Murry and Corey Taylor who played all eleven games. Liam Whitemen, Jakov Mihaljevic, Daniel Duffy and Sam Davis would have racked up the eleven also however school commitments restricted them to 10 games. The never say die attitude of the likes of Tim Dunn, Thomas Egan, Dylan Turner-Williams, Liam Johnson, Kahled Alfas, Kieron O'Dwyer and Corey Taylor in the forwards provided the opposition with tough competition. The likes of Sam Davis, Issac Makay, Mat Murry, Nathan Doherty and Emeilo Pupuali showed good skill in containing the oppositions back line which regularly out-numbered us.

Special thanks must go to coaches Rod Dunn and Rado and on the odd occasion Justin Baratta, who committed to training, coaching and organization of the team for game days. It was great to see new players Sam, Khaled, Kieron, Corey and Dylan fit in so well with the existing U16's players both on and off the field. A special thanks to Sam who at the age 14 years grew a few feet during the season.

Finally I would like to thank the parents for their commitment to the Club and particularly in transporting and getting the boys to the games and also training. We had an interesting draw and not many complaints. Great effort by all - have a safe off season and hope to see you all next season.

Ivan





Opens

How do I describe a year where we had two teams, in two different competitions, on back to back days; playing an age group up, with only 20 players?

Well, it started with the choice of competitions, Easy; Saturday Comp aka Western Comp, or Sunday Comp aka the Northern Comp.

A little bit of History first before I begin: We had won the Saturday Comp in 2009, and the following year 2010 we won the Northern Comp, so it was an important decision to make. Not only did we need to be challenged, we also wanted to grow and become better for our efforts as well as push past our previous successes.

After much debate I decided to play the teams an age group up. I believed that the competition we needed was in the higher age bracket; in the three previous years Oatley had lost 2 games out of the possible 48 - we had grown out of our age group in both Saturday and Sunday competitions. With further research I also believed the best teams were spread in both competitions on both Saturday and Sunday, if we could somehow play in both we could get the development, experience and the all important challenges we needed.

On paper at the time, we had the numbers to have two teams (enough numbers; right?) so off we went in search of new challenges whilst looking forward to climbing our new mountain.

The season started red hot scoring 200 + odd points and conceding 27 in the first 2 rounds: Round 4 handed us our first defeat. Leading 43 – 12 we had to forfeit the game due to injury; our first (and not last) experience of playing with only 12 players.

Round 6 game was a highlight: An opportunity to play at Concord Oval for the first time. A once only invitation for Oatley. At the time I didn't read too much into the details but was quickly brought up to speed.

West Harbour Colts were also at Concord that day playing Parramatta Colts. Parramatta Colts who only field 1st and 2nd grade Colt sides and no 3rd grade colts side which meant they had a fair few boys able to fill the spots in the West Harbour Opens team. Now Wests (junior club) had lost all 4 of their first 6 games (1 win via bye and a rained out round) but that day we played the biggest team of u18's - the game was excellent! Oatley started well scoring the first try after 15mins, West (Harbour Colts) hit back just before half time 7- 5 Oatley leading at the break, the first half was high intensity, our set pieces were strong, we had dominated field position and possession, we did however waste 3 clear scoring opportunities but we focused on wanting to finishing the game well.

Second half started with a flurry; Wests dominating field position and possession, we finally got the ball in our 22 and marched up field 5, 6, 7 phases we reached the half way, 11, 12, 13 we arrive at Wests 22. Set piece lineout, we steal it; another 5 phases we score under the posts. By this stage our lack of reserves on a very warm day started to count against us. 14 – 5 with 30mins to go, and we get pinned deep in our 22, for the next 10mins, Wests pound our line, the only thing keeping them out was the scrambling D, 5 meter scrums on both sides of the posts it was a war. They did score in the end to make the score line 14 – 10, with 15 mins to go we kicked off, Wests broke down the wing and again set up camp in our 22, by now we're bloody buggered; again we keep them out - finally we get the ball and march up field - now it was our turn to apply the pressure. After sustained pressure we earn a penalty, 3 points later we were back at half way.

Next was a mad scramble, Wests did score again to make it 17 - 15 but we held firm to close the game out. This game set the standard for our season the development of the players grew both individually and collectively as a team because of this one game, at the time it was our best team win.



Up until this game we would waste opportunities during a game to score points because we always would get another chance during the game, but after this experience the group of players would improve dramatically in this department. Gone was the she'll be right attitude toward scoring points, don't get me wrong we still mess up sometimes, but the difference before this game and after was significant improvement .

Our next land mark match was against Hills, the form team of the Saturday comp; we travelled up to the Hills district on their juniors and seniors home game day. It's not a good sign when your coach is late to a game, let alone only having 10 players at the ground and he's bringing the last two, what kind of preparation is this?

Well I finally arrive 5mins AFTER kickoff is suppose to happen, we run onto the field with 12 players, we start the game with a penalty to Hills because we're late; would you believe as soon as we get the ball we dominate; we parked ourselves in their half and set up camp not quite in position to score but playing territory game. Totally against the run of play they go length of the field and score, at half time we're down 19 – 0, you can dominate as much as you like but if you don't score points you won't win, ask South Africa. Times like this it's very important to focus on the positives and set out a clear basic game plan around your strengths and ensuring that everything is done together. The second half was magic; we scored 3 tries and kept them scoreless. But it wasn't to be and we lost that game - our winning try disallowed. Everyone there that day was so proud of the team for their efforts and equally upset by the result, we had done enough to win but it was taken away by the referee. It was a good loss though, well as good as a loss could ever be. At the time I imagine a fair amount of damage was done to the Hills side, when I went across to sign the sign on sheet, it was very quiet on the home front. It was a hollow victory for them. 25 players, against 12, lets just say we all looked forward to playing them again.

I was so proud of the team; they displayed a grit that can not be taught – a fight that comes from experience. To see the team play that way for each other, to play smart enterprising rugby, against the top placed team at their home on their club day was powerful. I learnt a lot that day. After the game other coaches came up to me and spoke about what they had seen; one coach stopped watching his game to watch ours. A priceless, quality experience. And for the record I feel I am responsible for the loss because I failed to have a qualified lines person for our side of the field; SORRY.

It was at this point in our season when things went crazy; the writing was on the wall regarding our numbers, barely 18 players for both comps. While the core of the group were excellent players, the grind of playing back to back days was heavy, the Saturday competition involved bigger players who's physical presence demanded a equally physical response, where as the Sunday competition demanded a conditional and skill based approach. When I planned out the season, I always wanted to test the team, if I could continue the development because of the varied styles of teams it would be a bonus; most of the learning would be done on the field but I never planned to do it with so few numbers.

We lost our way and were in danger of not only missing the semis but pulling the pin on the Saturday team. Well did actually; it was by chance that the message did not get to SJRU, why? Who knows – so on we soldiered! It came to ahead that we needed everyone to commit, it was the only way we could possibly continue with two teams, everyone agreed.

We had one final push to make the semi's but we would have to beat the top teams and hope the results went our way. We no longer held destiny in our hands. Sunday's team was safe in the top bracket of the comp, we managed to stay ahead of the chasing pack, but were knocked of balance because of forfeits.



Into the money rounds the Saturday team would have to beat the top two teams twice and the third place team to win the comp, The Sunday team had an easier run in but had to post big scores to have a shot at second spot and maybe a instant Grand final spot. If we could pull ourselves together we might have a chance.

Leading into the final rounds the Saturday team were 5th on the table, Dundas were 4th and had a bye in the final round so they were guaranteed 4th on points. The picture was clear we needed to knock over Hillview 2nd and Hills 1st to be 4th on the table by for and against, we would finish on the same competition points but we would go through on for and against.

R13 - Hillview 14 – Oatley 29 R14 Hills 7 – Oatley 28, we muscled our way into the semi's - beating Hills had extra satisfaction; not only did it guarantee we played in the semi's but it also broke their perfect record for the season and gave them a ominous sign that we had their number. The first week of the semi's I thought would be the hardest, we played Rooty Hill on Saturday and Newport on Sunday, the two extremes; Rooty Hills, BIG, strong aggressive and Newport, smart, conditioned and skilled. Both very important, we needed to beat Rooty Hill to stay in the semi's and we needed to beat Newport to go through to the Grand final and take some pressure off the Saturday team.

The Major semi against Newport game was very special, in the lead up to it, we were 3rd on the table the only way we could move into 2nd was a forfeit loss to Wakehurst, I knew there was a possibility of this happening because Wakehurst were away to the Blue Mountains. Funny how things fall into place.

The game against Newport was another defining moment in the journey it started in the most usual way; Newport's parent group had threatened to pull the game if a photo sheet was not produced for our team. It was my understanding that the host club was to provide this; which they didn't so we had to take photos of each player before they ran onto the field; this upset our warm up because they waited until 5mins before kickoff to spring this on us, on top of us only having 13 players. This was the 4th time this year that we took the field with 13 players or less, four games for four losses, experience is magic at times like this, very limited preparation, 2 players short; major semi; No worries 28 – 17 we're off to the Grand final; the experience of playing with 12 put us in good stead, now experience is nothing if you don't have courage, commitment, belief and a good game plan. What happened that day still is so unbelievable in many ways, we actually played with 11 players - able players that is and beat Newport the top team in a major semi. Tay broke 7 bones in his foot in the first half; Jarrome had a busted knee but both stayed on to give us a fighting chance; Tay left at half time and we played the last half with 12; funny we had both Tay and Jarrome on the wing and raid after raid they attacked their side but never broke through.

The Saturday team met Rooty Hill, in the minor semi, at halftime 17 – 12 we raced out to a 17 – 0 lead before Rooty Hill came back with vengeance. Rooty Hill is big aggressive and not to be given a sniff because they will grow, bigger, stronger and almost impossible to stop, this is how they finished the half. We were under the pump and needed half time, we needed to regroup and plan for a second half that would ask plenty of questions about our courage and commitment. As the whistle went for second half we were back on track, confident and focused, ready to do the hard yards and patient. 43 – 17 Oatley live another week, sore yeah but proud to slay the beast especially with 14 players, Rooty Hill were the defending Champs; it was fitting.

Our next Semi was against Hillview, again we were short of players 13 this time, the game was played at Evatt and it was a beautiful Saturday afternoon. On this day someone's season would come to a end, who's, that would be decided by one simple action. It started off fast; we would enjoy the best of territory and possession but they managed to hold us out, 5 – 0 Oatley lead at half time, small lead but deserving; the second half we everything to play for, being two players down is



starting to hurt; unlike Rooty Hill, Hillview throw the ball around, kick and chase and play a well rounded attack style. A lapse of concentration, Hillview enter our 22 at the next set piece they score and take the lead, we had changed our focus of attack and were too loose with ball in hand. We need to go forward first before spinning it, apply pressure and score points, and just like that we hit the lead through a penalty 8 – 7 to Oatley. Final 10 minutes, we have field position, we dominate the set pieces and broken play we are cruising but we're not scoring points, comfortable yes, until against the run Hillview score under the posts 14 – 8 and we're only got minutes left. At moments like this everyone needs to be on the same page, work your strengths, be patient and above all have the ball. Working, working getting closer, our flow is broken by the penalties. We need a try to win it; after sustained pressure we break the line and score in the corner we still need the kick to win and go to the Grand final. With time up Daniel steps up and kicks the goal from the side line, we're off to the Grand Final.

What a way to win; did we deserve to win?, yes we only had 13 players but that doesn't mean you going to, although it took a kick to win the game, it was the simple action of a team believing it could the won that game, I believe that teams have to learn how to believe that they can win which is different to knowing how to win.

So two Grand Finals, Hills had a great year scoring 378 and conceding 125 (of which Oatley scored 86, the other 6 teams scored a combined 39) they finished first and deserved to be in the Grand Final they dominated this season and went along way to erase last year.

Newport also had a great year also finishing first they were the only team to beat all other teams and they also deserved to be in the Grand Final, after the journey that got us here these two games were probably the easiest; and we had 16 players for each game and first in a long time.

The Saturday team beat Hills 43 – 10, history is powerful, in this case I used the history of them playing and losing last years GF to my advantage, it worked a treat and we played the game we wanted and got the outcome. After you lose a Grand Final it hurts for a long time, you have to wait for next year to get back on the horse; there is pressure, pressure from within, the last thing you want is to lose again. So you do everything you can to avoid that feeling; sometimes you can get lost in the details and miss what is really important. I could tell from the moment I saw them before the game, they were ready but not for us.

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Newport also had a great year also finishing first they were the only team to beat all other teams and they also deserved to be in the Grand Final, after the journey that got us here these two games were probably the easiest; and we had 16 players for each game and first in a long time.

The Saturday team beat Hills 43 – 10, history is powerful, in this case I used the history of them playing and losing last years GF to my advantage, it worked a treat and we played the game we wanted and got the outcome. After you lose a Grand Final it hurts for a long time, you have to wait for next year to get back on the horse; there is pressure, pressure from within, the last thing you want is to lose again. So you do everything you can to avoid that feeling; sometimes you can get lost in the details and miss what is really important. I could tell from the moment I saw them before the game, they were ready but not for us.

Well that's our season well it's not; there are so many other tales that I could not put in because it would be a script for a movie or something; I've learnt so much this year it amazing that I was able to experience it all, I had 3 different managers this year sorry 4, Thomas Sa'u, Tira Field, Mark Bernays and Richie Rice thank you very much for all you hard work, efforts, text messages, emails, smoke signals and everything else you did, I now know that it's not normal to go through so many managers; I will try to be a better coach and not use up managers.

There are heaps of people to thank; now this part is very important, to everyone who was there when you were needed THANK YOU; as often said with out you we would not be here so thank you for the bottom of my heart.

The Weeks family – a foundation for the team, thank you for everything, best tasting water. Over years you all have been fantastic.

The Britton Family – thanks for you efforts this year, new to the team but you couldn't tell because you were involved in everything.

The Light Family – Thanks for the linesman duties, brought the professional look to us.

The Palmer Family – The transport comp, thank you for the safe pick and delivery

The Keppel Family – Another transport comp, thank you, without you we would be lost....where's Evatt park?

Finally the players, well how do you say thank you to a group of young men who play rugby for you, put their bodies on the line because I asked them to, give up their time for you, travel great distances because you need them too?

To each player, I sincerely thank you; I understand the effort and commitment you give and am humbled because you invest that into my teams. I am honored to have coached you this year and always believed that you are the best, sometimes we have to win trophies so everyone else will start to believe something that I have always known. I believe in your talents on the field, but am most



proud of your talents off the field, you are a fine young man with a very bright future I believe you can achieve everything you desire just be ready to grab it. Thank you, until we meet again take care of you loved ones and please remember I will always be here for you; I promise.

To the Club Thank you, it's the best club in the world and I am proud to have been here for so long, the teams coming up will continue the high standards that have always been here. There's something very special about our club and I believe it's the people; everyone here does a great job in their teams and I don't blame you coz what better place to give of you efforts than Oatley Rugby Club.

Thanks Richard Rice, we had some tough periods there, but I could always count on you, plenty of times Richard went into bat for the 18's and it has not been forgotten, so again thanks.

Luanna, thank you for the extra efforts this year, we wouldn't have had a team if you didn't do your stuff, thanks Luanna.

To the Coaches; well done! I am proud to be a part of this team. I enjoy seeing you all carve your way into the rugby landscape; it is pleasing to know the club is on the rise and you Gents are leading the way. I'm excited to see how your teams develop and grow.

Just to let you know I will steal your drills if you do them to close too me. Thanks Gentlemen. Well a HUGE Thank you for reading all way down to here, it been a mission; for you reading and me writing. If you skipped all the way down here; I still thank you, I don't know why, I guess I'm happy at the moment.

Thanks my Oatley Family.

P.S sorry if I missed you; I wanted to save it till the end when it's really important and I know you didn't want me to name you so this should make you happy THANKS !

Alex





Seniors VP Report

The 2011 season for the seniors was tough but a very enjoyable one. We set a few goals at the start of the year, with the main focus on rebuilding the camaraderie and culture which is a corner stone for any Rugby Club. We needed to focus on improving our discipline while still remaining competitive on the field.

I would like to thank all of the coaches, managers, team captains and volunteers for your efforts over the year. Always getting to game days, setting up and packing down the fields, arranging post game functions, washing jerseys and making sure we had the players there on the day. These people ensured that we were ready to have a run either at Evatt or on the road.

Thanks to all who pulled on the boots throughout the year and for making the Oatley Rugby Club a great organisation to be involved with!

While the results on the park were not fantastic, we did achieve some of our goals. Discipline was dramatically improved from the preceding season. We also achieved a lot in rebuilding the spirit or culture of our club with post match functions and successful events like ANZAC day and Sportsman's lunch at the Maso, and Ladies and Old Players Day at Evatt. Thanks to all involved and those who attended.

We conducted a player survey at our last club game and a lot of players stated that we need more commitment to training. I would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to PG, Mark and Ross for running training sessions over the year, hope we will see more players down at training each week in 2012.

1st grade were unfortunate to not make the finals, with PG at the helm for his second year coaching and Robbie Cameron managing the lads. Thought we were unable to get a consistent team on the paddock each week due to injuries and work commitments. There were some gutsy performances and some good wins both home and away. The elusive on-field success did not come, but under the captaincy of Hen, with Marto, Joey etc we are placed very well next season.

2nd grade squad had a complete turnaround from last season, Irish unable to play due to knee reconstruction put up his hand to coach, and he done a wonderful job. With Neems Managing the 2nd graders looked a chance of making the finals a few weeks out. A highlight of the season was seeing the 2nd graders get up against Newport, at Newport. You guys should be very proud of your selves.

3rd grade were the most successful making the finals. This success came through the efforts of Jase Myers, Bags and Seta, all taking the helm throughout the year. It was disappointing to lose the final to Briars right on the bell, having beaten them the week before. Thanks needs to go to all the third graders who played up and down through the grades all year, ensuring our clubs overall competitiveness.



4th grade remained competitive throughout the year, still looking at a finals birth with a few weeks to go. Well done Scott Mac and Ed for keeping this side together. Thanks should also go to Big Ronnie, RJ, Aaron Malouf and Robbie Cameron from 4th grade who were always on hand to help out around the park.

Colts being a very young and talented side had a lot of promise, Mark Bernays done a great job in getting these guys together each week. Thanks needs to go to all the colts for the dedication to the club, playing multiple games, running water, working the BBQ etc. Unfortunately on-field discipline crippled the colts throughout the season, seeing them playing down a man or two. The talent is there with the passion, it just needs to be harnessed.

On behalf of the seniors, I would to thank all of the executive committee members, Bags, Jock, RJ, Mick Waudby, Mick Bradley, Sandy, Rossco, Richard Rice and Ross Bernays. Special thanks needs to go to Ross Bernays for all of his help during 2011, a great rugby resource, full of passion for the game, always willing to pass on his experience, guide the coaches, managers and committee members, run the side line and read the fine print. I hope he continues his involvement in the Oatley Rugby Club. Richard Rice for always being will to help. Big and Little Jock for all the running around of course Ants for always picking up the ball and running with it.

I look forward to seeing you all again in the new year for more rugby and Beers.

Richard "Beachie" Ekholm





2011 Senior Award Winners

Club Awards

Player of the Year	–	Henry Emani
Clubman of the Year	–	Anthony Scoon
Rookie of the Year	–	Dave Gleeson
Michael Bacon, Players Player	–	Seta Teuhema
Colt of the Year	–	Sam Wright
Presidents Award	–	Ronald Mackay
Supporter of the Year	–	Sarah Teasdale

Team Awards

1 ST Grade	Best Forward	–	Joey Wilson
	Best Back	–	Andrew Martin
	Coaches Award	–	Robbie Bushell
2 nd Grade	Best Forward	–	Lote Cama
	Best Back	–	Chris Bernays
	Coaches Award	–	Pat Paki
3 rd Grade	Best Forward	–	Seta Teuhema
	Best Back	–	Micheal Beatie
	Coaches Award	–	Bryn Randall
4 th Grade	Best Forward	–	Nico Le Roux
	Best Back	–	Aaron Malouf
	Coaches Award	–	Andrew Logan
Colts	Best Forward	–	Nathan Athvale
	Best Back	–	Alex Lingard
	Coaches Award	–	Declan Walpole

Game Awards

200 Games	-	Michael Beatie
100 Games	-	Derick Martins
100 Games	-	Peter Burns
100 Games	-	Dave Morris





1st Grade Report

Firstly I would like to thank everyone that was involved with the first grade side throughout the season.

Special mention to Rob Cameron who was part of the set up but unfortunately had to move to WA for work commitments, so we thank and wish Rob and his family all the best in the future.

The year started with a fairly good turn out in numbers for the first part of the pre season which was good signs early on. As we got closer to the trial matches the numbers were still strong but lacked in quality first grade players. The trials were a good hit out leading into the season and showed me what we had to work with for round 1.

The first round was always going to be a tough encounter considering the amount of players that were unavailable and coming up against Forest who had dropped down from 1st division. The game was a close one right through till the 80 minute mark where the final score was 13 – 6, but the guys set the standard with a very good defensive effort to only let them score once while their was a man in the sin bin.

As the season went on it was more of the same with players in and out each week which was hard to get some consistency from the team when it was a different make up to the previous week. Mid way through the season we got a couple of players back from rugby league which helped us out with not many quality backs within the ranks and injuries starting to creep in.



We battled away each week with the players we had but seem to keep falling short or as I would say we ran out of time on the score board. We did manage to string a few wins together, as well as push some of the top 4 sides and beating UNSW who were grand finalists for 1st grade.

The year was by no means a failure considering we didn't make the finals, but what we had done from a club and player point of view. We worked hard on changing the culture which the guys bought into and we found some potentially good solid players for the future of Oatley Rugby. With the work that the players put in over the year on and off the field this should see us in a good position moving forward into the new season.

Id like to finish by thanking our captain Henry Emani who led the players with the utmost respect and led from the front. With players like Henry and others staying on for next season the club is in a good position moving forward. To the players that played 1st grade throughout the season I thank you for the effort and commitment you put in to the team and club, I look forward to working with you all in the future.



Thanks to everyone at the club who helped out throughout the season your support and help did not go unnoticed.

Lastly thanks to all the players involved with the club, I hope to see you all next season when we hit the ground running come pre season.

Cheers PG, Oatley 1st Grade Coach

2nd Grade Report

2011 was a year of progress for 2nd Grade. Returning from a difficult year in 2010 it was always going to be a tough season as this is a predominantly young and inexperienced group of players. The season started off with a trip to Forresterville and although the result didn't go our way it was obvious to see that this team had the potential to stand up to any team in the divisions home or away.

As the year went on the playing group grew from strength to strength, grinding out some great results but mostly importantly always putting in an honest and gutsy performance. There were some great wins on the road against the likes of St.Ives and Hornsby not to mention a 4 try bonus point win on the infamous road trip to Newport. A lot of results also went our way at Evatt too, the highlights been Dave Morris's last minute penalty to beat Blacktown and Pat Paki's conversion against Kings to put 30 points between the teams.

The teams success was built on strong regular performances from the like of Chris Bernays, Rob Streamer, Paddy Moran, Gareth Reynolds, Pat Paki, Karlo and Lote Cama. Another big factor was the help from 3rd grade and Colts who were never shy to back up. Many thanks to the likes of Dave Morris, Michael Beattie, Jase Myers, Seta, Moses, Kel, Brendan Lal, Pete Richardson and the ever present Sam Wright.

Overall a mid table finish was good comparison to the season before and a step in the right direction for 2nd grade becoming one of the teams to beat in this competition. However looking back on season two very narrow losses at home to Briars and Newport as well as a draw on the road against Kings was the difference in this team not making the top four.

All in all there are a lot of positives to be taken from the season. With the right coaching and support there are no reasons why second grade can't continue to improve over the next few years.

Coach
Gordon Matthews





3rd Grade Report

Another year of rugby and another semi-final loss would be the best way to describe the season.

In my final year coaching a senior side I can honestly say this was one of the most heart breaking and disappointing seasons, I have experienced.

I would like to congratulate the players who played and travelled and back up week in week out to ensure we met our commitment to the 2nd division competition. To all the colts who helped out during year thank you. In particular Sam, Kel, Alex, Koolio and Nathan, I would also thank Mark Bernays the Colts coach for supporting the 3rd grade cause.

To the award winners Bryn, Mick, Seta well done and I hope you are back next year.

To Seta the captain a big thanks and congratulation on winning the players player award. To be recognised by your peers for your performance, sportsmanship, and leadership is massive and this is an award you can truly be proud of.

To Steve Moloney the team's manager, coach, general dogs body, a massive effort to ensure we got the team to the final series, thank you and well done.

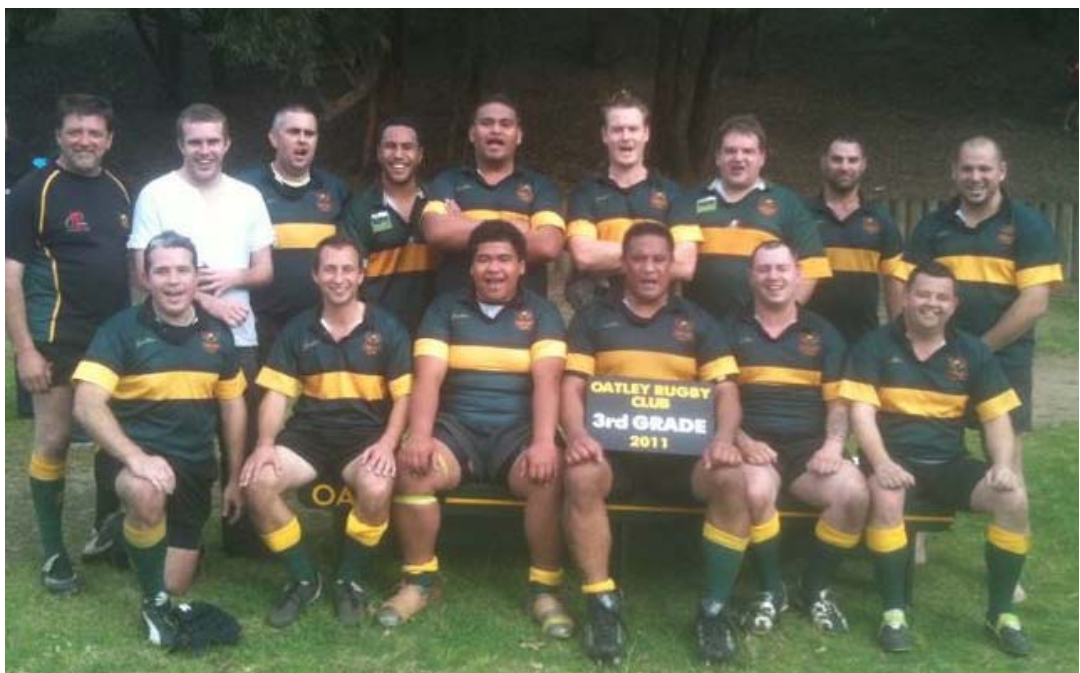
Finally to the team as a whole, I have either played with, against or coached all of you at some stage in my time at the senior club. Our inability to win a semi-final is due to our poor preparation and lack of training. To lose the semi this year after coming back the way we did, was heart breaking; however I have no doubt with a better preparation and participation at training throughout the season we could have measures in place to combat what happen in the final 2 minutes. I hope you all learn a lesson and comeback with an invigorated commitment to each other and club to ensure this doesn't happen again.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who I have come in contact with during my 19 years involved in the senior club. While I will still be involved as the President, 2011 was my last years as a hands on coach or player. Oatley Rugby senior club has had been a big part of my life; however it is time to move on and give back to my family which at times I have neglected due to my passion for the club.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2012 down at Evatt, as rest assured I will still be at every home game enjoy the camaraderie of you all.

Cheers and Beers

Bags





4th Grade Report

Another Solid year for Oatley 4th Grade. While semi final success didn't come our way we remained competitive for the majority of the year and were still a chance for the play offs a few weeks out.

As has been the case in recent seasons the success of the team was built on a strong combination of youth and experience.

While a number of Club veterans who still run around in 4's used all of their guile to lead us around the park, we regularly relied on the younger brigade of the club to get us over the tryline.

As Coach I would like to extend my gratitude to the following people who contributed to another enjoyable year of Rugby.

- Mark Bernays and his Colts squad who were always happy to assist on those occasions that we were short of players.
- Ross Bernays who always seemed to be running the line for us and adding his knowledgeable comments to the half time discussions when needed.
- Beachie, Bags and the committee for letting us do our thing
- Jase and the third grade boys who covered for us when possible before playing their own games.
- To all the partners who supported us pursuing our footy passion each Saturday

To Ed Devlin my sincere thanks for all of your selfless efforts in Managing the team and getting game day together each week.

Finally thanks to all the players who gave their commitment to the cause this year. It was a pleasure playing in the team with you all and I look forward to seeing you on the field again in 2012.

Have a great off season,
see you next year.

Scotty Mc
2011 Coach





Colts Report

This year was quite a difficult year for the colts. We were competitive in a lot of games but injuries, work commitments and suspensions made it hard to get 15 players on the field every week.

There is a lot of talent in this team and they are very young with the bulk of the side being 18 or 19. With a bit more commitment and discipline this side will be very successful in future.

To the boys' credit they tried hard all year and had the best commitment to training out of all the senior sides. The boys backed up all year for grades with some regularly playing in 3 or 4 games on Saturdays.

This is a great bunch of young men who enjoy playing with each other and have a lot of fun on and off the field.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who helped out this year with the colts. If it wasn't for them we would not have got a side on the park each week.

Coach Mark Bernays

End of Season Awards

Colt of Year-Sam Wright

Best Back-Alex Lingard

Best Forward-Nathan Athavle

Coaches Award-Declan Walpole



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 Seniors Vice President
 Juniors Vice President
 Minis Vice President
 Canteen Co-ordinator
 Executive Committee Members

Justin Baratta
 Ed Devlin
 Mick Bradley
 Mick Waudby
 Rod Dunn
 Richard Ekholm
 Richard Rice
 Sandy Palmer
 Sheriden Baratta
 Mick Waudby
 Rod Dunn
 Ross Bernays
 Ross Williamson



Senior Committee

Seniors Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Club Captain
 Coaching Co-ordinators

Richard Ekholm
 Ed Devlin
 Mick Bradley
 Steve McLean
 Darrell Glendinning
 Ross Bernays
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